

## Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are preliminary landings estimates in metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic shark commercial fisheries for the 1<sup>st</sup> season of 2004 (January through June). These landings estimates include landing reports received as of April 23, 2004. Any state landings and over/underharvests from this season will be totaled and counted against future quotas, as appropriate. Additionally, any unclassified landings are considered, at this time, to be large coastal sharks.

Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated landings	Percent of quota taken
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED February 29	190.3 mt dw (419,535.4 lbs dw)	213.4 mt dw (470,508 lbs dw)	112.1
	South Atlantic	CLOSED February 15	244.7 mt dw (539,465.6 lbs dw)	212.5 mt dw (468,390 lbs dw)	86.8
	North Atlantic	CLOSED April 15	18.1 mt dw (39,903.3 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (0 lbs dw)	0
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED March 18	11.2 mt dw (24,691.5 lbs dw)	25.7 mt dw (56,745 lbs dw)	229.5
	South Atlantic	To be determined, as necessary	233.2 mt dw (514,112.7 lbs dw)	16.9 mt dw (37,175 lbs dw)	7.2
	North Atlantic		36.5 mt dw (80,467.9 lbs dw)	0 mt dw (0 lbs dw)	0
Blue sharks	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	136.5 mt dw (300,927.9 lbs dw)	31.1 mt dw (68,607 lbs dw)	7.3
Porbeagle sharks			46 mt dw (101,411.6 lbs dw)		
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle			244 mt dw (537,922.4 lbs dw)		

Please note that the estimated landings for large and small coastal sharks have changed since the last update due to updates and corrections to the data. Additionally, several proposed rules regarding the shark fishery will be published within the next few weeks. These proposed rule address issues with the vessel monitoring system effective date, the North Atlantic regional quota split for 2004, and regional and trimester quotas for 2005. A notice announcing the second 2004 fishing season will be published approximately 30 days before July 1, 2004.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to Atlantic shark fishery interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347.

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